

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mitchell man promoted to command sergeant major in Guard

WATERTOWN, S.D. – A Mitchell man was recently promoted to command sergeant major in the South Dakota Army National Guard before assuming responsibility for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Watertown.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lathe Ragels replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose as the battalion's command sergeant major and will now serve as the battalion commander's advisor on all enlisted matters for the 147th.

Ragels grew up in Clark County and initially joined the South Dakota National Guard in 1989 with the communications platoon to 2nd Battalion, 1-147th Field Artillery in Clark.

"I am honored and humbled to have been given the awesome gift of taking responsibility of a battalion with such a rich and storied history as well as a bright and promising future," Ragels said. "The added benefit of being able to come home, in a sense, to the unit that I grew up in professionally is icing on the cake."

Ragels is now entrusted with the mentorship and guidance of the nearly 400 Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery.

"My goal in carrying out this new responsibility is to capitalize on the current battalion strengths and work to improve lateral communications between the sections and units," Ragels said. "All of our Soldiers are great at what they do and our sections are second to none. The only real area for improvement now is to more fully build them into a larger whole."

When it comes to his leadership philosophy, Ragels said he sums it up with the acronym CARE.

"Choices - Your choices define who you are. Attitude - Your attitude defines who others believe you are. Responsibilities - Your responsibilities are just that, responsibilities. They are not optional. Excellence - If you are always striving for excellence you will never achieve it (because your perceptions change) but you will consistently improve."

Rose will be retiring after a long career of dedicated service to the South Dakota National Guard.

"I want to thank Command Sgt. Maj. Rose for his work in shaping a battalion that is ready, willing and able to complete any mission assigned to it," Ragels said. "The positive effect of his leadership is evident throughout the battalion."

High-resolution photos below are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



Command Sgt. Maj. Lathe Ragels: U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Lathe Ragels, of Mitchell, S.D., was recently promoted to command sergeant major in the South Dakota Army National Guard before assuming responsibility for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Watertown. Ragels replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose, who is retiring, as the battalion's command sergeant major and will now serve as the battalion commander's advisor on all enlisted matters for the 147th. (SDNG file photo/Released)



150610-Z-ZZ999-15: U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Lathe Ragels, right, receives a ceremonial saber from Lt. Col. James Linn, battalion commander for the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, during a recent change of responsibility ceremony in Watertown, S.D. Ragels replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose, who is retiring, as the battalion's command sergeant major and will now serve as the battalion commander's advisor on all enlisted matters for the 147th. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jay Roberts/Released)

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